

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN H. TRATTNER

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 252748 TOSEC 160304

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PRESS BRIEFING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

NO. 23

1. SPOKESMAN (TRATTNER) SAID SECRETARY PLANNING RETURN TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 24 AT THE END OF THE DAY. ASKED REASON FOR EARLIER RETURN THAN ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED, SPOKESMAN SAID HE BELIEVED LAST DAY OF TOYKO SCHEDULE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A BIT FLEXIBLE, AND THAT SECRETARY WOULD BE HAVING VERY FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN HAD FOLLOWING REPLIES:

A. AMERICANS KIDNAPPED OCTOBER 22 IN BEIRUT: NO WORD RECEIVED FROM KIDNAPPERS. WE HAVE SEEN A REPORT THAT THE TWO AMERICANS ARE ALIVE AND IN HANDS OF THE PFLP, BUT CANNOT CONFIRM ITS ACCURACY. WE REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. A THIRD AMERICAN, WILLIAM BUCHER

LYONS, WAS DETAINED AT NOON OCTOBER 22 BY ARMED, UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENTS AT A ROADBLOCK WHILE DRIVING IN BEIRUT. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED UNHARMED ON SAME DAY, AND LATER SAW OUR CONSUL AT BEIRUT EMBASSY.

B. ECONOMIC SUMMIT: THIS SUBJECT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE AMONG THOSE DISCUSSED IN SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH JAPANESE FINANCE MINISTER IN TOKYO.

C. STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SPANISH BASES: AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY LAST WEEK IN MADRID PRESENTED FOR SPANISH REVIEW AND COMMENT A NUMBER OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS, OF WHICH THERE WILL BE FIVE OR SIX IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY. WE ARE AWAITING SPANISH REVIEW AND COMMENTS. NO NEW MEETING IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED. WE WILL BE SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE FULL AGREEMENT, BUT DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT FORM THIS WILL TAKE. THAT WILL BE WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS.

D. RELEASE OF AMERICANS IN VIETNAM: WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING BEYOND HANOI ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER IN THE WEEK. REGARDING PRESS REPORT TODAY THAT SOME AMERICANS WOULD BE LEAVING AT THE END OF THE MONTH ; WE ARE AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION AND DO NOT KNOW WHO IS GOING TO BE RELEASED.

E. NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY: IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IN ANKARA OCTOBER 28. AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WILL REPRESENT THE U.S.

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